'Hams'

From page 1, column 8

defense workers, vehicles and materials."

The mobile units also participated as a group in other functions.

At the recent road race of the Sports Car Club of America at Elkhart Lake, Wis., the mobile transmitters were stationed at intervals around the course, helping to give the officials an immediate check. These operators noted and reported several potentially dangerous situations and once had the pleasure of re-assuring an anxious wife, who burst into tears on being informed that her driver husband was delayed by mechanical trouble and not killed, as she had feared.

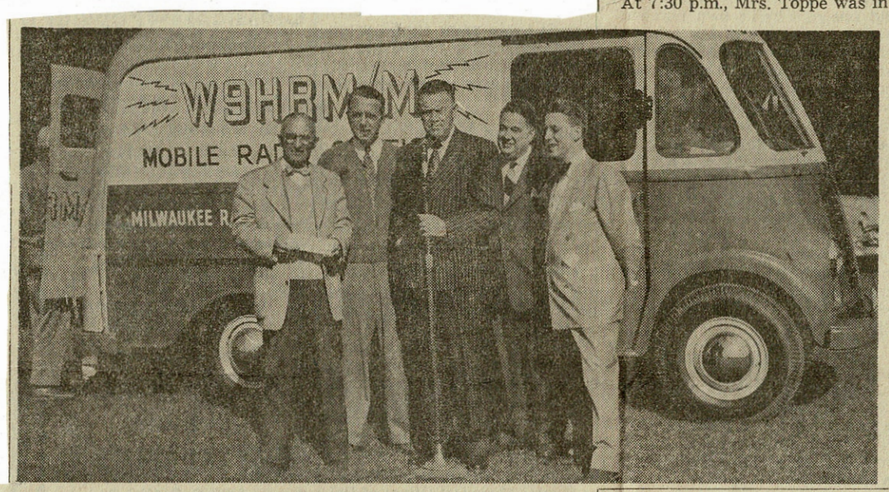
The mobile units also help out in parades. A number participated in the drive of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from Chicago to Milwaukee—a rat race if ever there was one — sending out bulletins that were heard by hundreds of thousands awaiting the hero's arrival here.

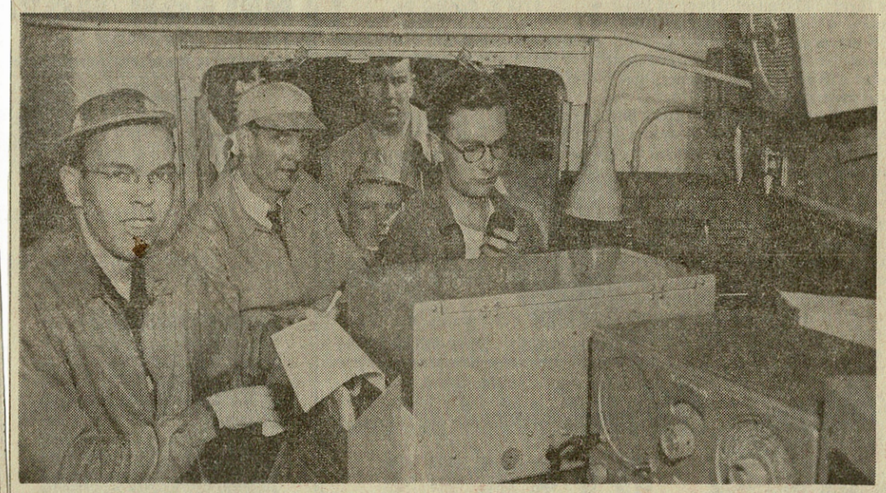
'Ham' Helps 'Ham'

In the more leisurely parades within the city, the mobile units patrol the line of march and provide a communication system for those in charge. They take and pass on orders for more speed or less, report reasons for delays and help keep the procession moving along in clocklike precision.

In the recent civil defense parade, the "hams" found a means to help one of their own number. During a pause in the parade, Russell Zehentner, 3812 W. Hampton av., left his own automobile and walked over to chat with fellow "hams" at the amateur club's mobile unit. When he was there, the parade started again and Zehentner's father, who was driving his car, drove right past him.

The men in the club truck then sent a message to another "ham," James Ott, 7830 W. North av., riding in a mobile unit farther up the line. Ott stopped the parade until





This mobile radio station, belonging to the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club, contains $5,000 worth of radio equipment and is capable, under favorable conditions, of sending around the earth. One picture was taken at the dedication of civil defense; Karl O. Werwath, president of the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and Arthur Brown, radio club secretary. The interior view shows the equipment in operation. Those shown, all members of the Milwaukee Radio

In Time of Disaster Ham Operators Are of Great Service to the Nation

This is the second of two articles on radio "hams."

By DON C. TRENARY
Of The Journal Staff

The call went over the air at 6:10 p.m. on a Monday, sent by a feeble amateur radio station in Coldwater, Mich. It was answered by Mrs. George (Jackie) Toppe, a "ham" operator at 4901 S. 30th st. She took the message.

A woman in Coldwater had died. Would Mrs. Toppe see if word could be gotten to her son, a soldier stationed in Frankfort, Germany? Mrs. Toppe would; she had done similar relaying for the Coldwater man in the past.

At 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Toppe was in contact with an amateur operator who worked at the Pentagon. He took the message and promised action.

The following day, as a double check, she talked to Frankfort herself. That call was unnecessary. The Pentagon man had already got in touch with the authorities there; the bereaved soldier had called home Tuesday morning.

Messages From Korea

That sort of thing, multiplied by the tens of thousands, is a part of amateur radio today. Almost every amateur on occasion has passed on a message received over the ether. Some "hams," such as those on the Badger emergency net which operates nightly, make such handling a major hobby.

A great deal has been done in bringing home messages from the Korean war zone, for in this conflict—unlike the two World wars—there has been no curtailment of "ham" activity.

Much of this message bearing is perforce grim, but some is on the lighter side. Take, for example, the affair of Tom Herzog, who at 13 is the youngest licensed member of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club. Tom's report card came in while his parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. V. Herzog, 5118 W. Washington blvd., were in New York.

This was an affair of some import, for the rule is that low grades mean a suspension of his "ham" hobby.

The Grades Relayed

So when Tom got his report card, he got on the air and put out a call for New York over the Herzog station, W90PS. W2EAR of New York accepted the message and the grades—they were favorable, of course — were known to Tom's parents a half hour after he had received them.

"W2EAR sympathized with my dad," Tom reported in writing, "for he has a son with the same trouble, but in respect to model trains."

Then there is the incident that has become "ham" folklore. It concerns the wife of an eastern amateur who found herself locked out of her home. Her husband was busy in his radio "shack" and could not hear the doorbell.

That was during one of the Byrd expeditions to Antarctica. The wife knew that, at that particular hour, her husband was accustomed to get on his radio rig and discuss life with a pal attached to the expedition. So she went to the home of a "ham" operator two blocks away, and he called Antarctica to have the operator there tell her husband to open the front door.

The amateur radio operators are treated tenderly by the military tors to maintain and expand their stations. The air force has asked for the registration of all "hams" who could be called up in an emergency.

Work in Emergency

There are two reasons for this cherishment. One is that the radio "hams" provide a valued reservoir of technician talent. The other is that the amateurs constitute a fine line of communication defense in case of emergency.

This has been proved time and again, the last time in the great flood of the Missouri river. "Hams" are very proud of the work of their colleagues in that disaster. In that and other tragedies, many persons owe their lives to the unflagging work of the radio hobbyists.

It is taken as fundamental that one of the first things to happen in a military emergency in this country will be the disruption of normal communication. For this contingency, Milwaukee radio "hams" are prepared.

In addition to the 700 "ham" stations in homes throughout the county—in themselves an available secondary communication means—there exist in the metropolitan area some 70 mobile stations, installed in automobiles, which can be sent anywhere "on the spot" communication is needed.

Station on Wheels

Most of these are private ventures by "hams" who have put their hobby on wheels, but one is the elaborately equipped mobile station of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club.

This vehicle contains radio equipment worth $5,000, compressed into the body of a one ton truck. It has two transmitters, four receivers, cooking gear, folding chairs and a special bench for the comfort of the radiomen. A trailer carries a gasoline power plant, which makes the unit independent of commercial power. The station is operated by six men, and a number of crews are available. Its range is unlimited; under favorable conditions it can send 25,000 miles.

These mobile units are organized and their efficiency was tested Sept. 23, when the mobile committee head, Charles Kaetel, 3145-A N. 48th st., an otherwise charming man with a nefarious habit of getting up early on Sunday mornings, called a surprise drill at 5:30 a.m.

The response was excellent. Within minutes after Kaetel's telephoning, mobile units began to report themselves "on station" at strategic spots around the city, and Jack Doyle, a "ham" living at 4331 N. Wildwood av., arrived puffing at the net's radio rig in the Shorewood police station with his pants hitched up over his pajamas.

During the drill, a call was made to determine whether such a net could contact stations out of town. Within 20 seconds, three of these had reported themselves ready to relay any messages.

Work at a Race

"There can be and we do have a place for the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club in civil defense," said Eugene J. Sleevi, public information and education coordinator of the Milwaukee civil defense and disaster committee. "Members will be used under present plans as part of the emergency communication system which would be vital after a disaster that would knock out normal communication channels. Radio units could be used after a disaster to send

Hinky Pinky

By ALLEN STEWART

Find two rhyming words which mean the same as those given. The new rhyming words must exactly fit the dashes. "Hink Pink" means they are words of one syllable; "Hinky Pinky," two syllables; "Hinkety Pinkety," three syllables.

Example: Wily Insect (Hink Pink)—Sly Fly.

1. Odd Phobia (Hink Pink)
   _____ _____
2. Oval Knoll (Hink Pink)
   _____ _____
3. Rancid Meal (Hink Pink)
   _____ _____

Answers on page 3.

Whamdoodles

To learn to make a "mobile" one may study under a sculptor of the school moderne. Or, easier still, get into a wrestling match, best two falls in three, with a mass of wire coat hangers.

* * *

These tax bargains are a revelation to the many who never realized that by shopping around you could find a reasonable internal revenue agent.

* * *

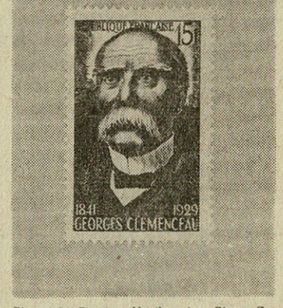
Harvard announces the receipt of new gifts totaling $1,762,955, and we guess the least the old grads, with no halfback to donate, can give is money.

* * *

We'll say for the steel gray market that it operated on the quiet, which is no mean feat—this tiptoeing around with 250 tons of the stuff.

* * *

Again the cynics are foreseeing disintegration for UN. Which raises a question of that new



—Stamps by Courtesy Northwestern Stamp Co.

A rather grim portrait of Georges (The Tiger) Clemen-